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Letter dated 23 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in order to raise a subject of great interest to my country and, in so doing, to convey the concern of the Government of the Dominican Republic in connection with the appointment of the Acting Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

In this regard, we have learned of a meeting convened by the Office of the Special Adviser on General Issues and Advancement of Women for the purpose of announcing the appointment of the aforementioned Acting Director, rather than submitting it for the approval of States members of the INSTRAW Executive Board. The meeting was held without inviting my Government, the host country of the Institute and a permanent Board member, ex officio, in its own right, to attend, and without consulting or informing it with regard to the purpose of the meeting.

Indeed, my country learned of the meeting through a telephone call from Ms. Yassine Fall and, subsequently, her letters of 16 and 18 June, respectively, requesting a meeting prior to her arrival in the Dominican Republic, where she would be assuming the position on 1 July 2010, and informing us of her appointment for a period of six months, pending the establishment of the new gender entity which is still the subject of intergovernmental negotiations.

Ms. Fall kindly expressed her interest in visiting us, as INSTRAW headquarters is located in the Dominican Republic, and because of our role on behalf of the Institute. We were therefore pleased to meet with her today.

The circumstances surrounding this appointment have aroused concern among the authorities of my Government, who are very committed to the most cherished goals of the United Nations and to its success, and all the more so when those circumstances are considered in the light of the INSTRAW Statute, particularly article III ("Executive Board"), paragraphs 2 (b) and 3 (e), and article IV ("Director and staff"), paragraph 1.

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The Government of the Dominican Republic trusts that you will make every effort to properly address our concerns over what has occurred, even though the Secretariat may have had the best of intentions in seeking to improve the functioning of INSTRAW by appointing an experienced official with considerable professional abilities.

Lastly, we respectfully request that this letter be circulated among all States Members of the United Nations as an official document under agenda item 121.

(*Signed*) Federico Alberto **Cuello Camilo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative